The details in respect of these projects regarding their date of commercial operation, estimated cost are furnished below:—

Name of the project and capacity (MW)	Date of commercial operation	Estimated approved cost by CEA
Suratgarh TPS St. I Unit-2, 250 MW	23.07.2000	Rs. 1253.31 crore (including cost of Unit-I also)
Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-3, 250 MW	16.01.2002	Rs. 2057.62 crore (combined cost for Units 3 & 4)
Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-4, 250 MW	6/2002 (Expected)	
Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant U 3 & 4, 2x220 MW	1.6.2000 and 23.12.2000	Rs. 2511 crore

In addition to the above, the following wind power projects were established in Rajasthan during the last three years:

(i) 1999-2000	2.0 MW at Jaisalmer
(ii) 2000-01	2.1 MW at Phalodi
	2.25 MW at Devgarh
	10.2 MW commercial wind power projects

Besides, a small hydro project of aggregate capacity of 0.55 MW was also installed in Rajasthan in 1999-2000.

The project cost of wind power projects varies from Rs. 4.5 crores to Rs. 5.0 crores per MW while the cost of a small hydro project is between Rs. 4.0 crores and Rs. 5.0 crores per MW.

BPL in rural areas

†*448. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons living below the poverty line in the rural areas has not been reduced in 90s as per targets because of lack of the availability of employment opportunities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment in this regard; and

(c) the number of persons living below the poverty line in the rural areas at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) The number of persons living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) is estimated by the Planning Commission on the basis of the Quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the estimates provided by the Planning Commission, the poverty ratio in the rural areas of the country has reduced to 27.09 per cent (30 day recall period) in 1999-2000 from 37.27 per cent in 1993-94. The estimates for the year, 1999-2000 (30 day recall period) indicate that there were 1932.42 lakh persons living Below the Poverty Line in rural areas.

Funds for accelerating power reforms

*449. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Ministry is considering to provide more funds for accelerating power reforms in the States;

(b) if so, whether this will be in addition to the budget provisions of Rs. 4,000 crore sought by his Ministry;

(c) whether these funds will be invested in the States under the new Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme; and

(d) if so, to what extent the new programme will help in meeting demands of the States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) The Government of India has been providing financial assistance in the form of additional Central Plan Assistance under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to bring about necessary reforms in the State Power Sector for it to achieve commercial viability. The Ministry of Finance had provided Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 1500 crores in the FY 2000-01 and FY 2001-02 respectively and a provision of Rs. 3500 crores has been made for FY 2002-03. The funds are provided under APDP for systematic financing of projects relating to (a) renovation and modernization and life extension of old generating stations and (b) upgradation of Sub-transmission and Distribution network to bring about the desired efficiency in the distribution sector. Initially